IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

image reading means for reading analog color image data of a color image, ~~separates~~ separating the analog color image data into red image data, green image data, and blue image data, and ~~converts~~ converting the red image data into digital red image data, the green image data into digital green image data, and the blue image data into digital blue image data; and

processing means for subjecting the digital red image data, the digital green image data, and the digital blue image data to digital processing, wherein the processing means includes

color identifying means for determining, for each of the digital red image data, the digital green image data, and the digital blue image data, whether there exists black data, ~~and generates~~ generating density data from the black data when black data exists, and ~~generates~~ generating color data from data other than the black data;

multinarizing means for converting the color data for each of the digital red image data, the digital green image data, and the digital blue image data into multinary color data;

magnification varying means for varying the density data and the ~~color data multinarized~~ multinary color data, using a cubic function convolution method;

binarizing means for binarizing the ~~color data~~ varied multinary color data, based on a predetermined threshold; and

image printing means for printing the ~~color data~~ binarized varied multinary color data and the varied density data ~~varied~~, onto a recording medium.

2. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the multinarizing ~~unit~~ means generates the multinary <u>color</u> data by setting "0" where the black data exists and by setting an integer equal to or greater than "1" [[if]] <u>when</u> the data is other than the black data.

3. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the binarizing ~~unit~~ means binarizes the <u>varied multinary</u> color data ~~varied~~ by setting to black [[if]] <u>when</u> the <u>varied multinary</u> color data ~~varied~~ is "0" and by setting to any color other than black [[if]] <u>when</u> the <u>varied multinary</u> color data ~~varied~~ is not "0".

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

an image reader that reads analog color image data of a color image, separates the analog color image data into red image data, green image data, and blue image data, and converts the red image data into digital red image data, the green image data into digital green image data, and the blue image data into digital blue image data;

an image processor that subjects the digital red image data, the digital green image data, and the digital blue image data to digital processing, wherein the image processor includes

a separating unit that determines, for each of the digital red image data, the digital green image data, and the digital blue image data, whether there exists black data, ~~and~~ generates density data from the black data when black data exists, and generates color data from data other than the black data; and

a two-color image processing unit that includes

a multinarizing unit that converts the color data for each of the digital

red image data, the digital green image data, and the digital blue image data

into multinary color data;

a magnification varying unit that varies the density data and the

multinary color data multinarized, using a cubic function convolution method;

and

a binarizing unit that binarizes the color data varied multinary color

data, based on a predetermined threshold; and

an image forming unit that prints the color data binarized vaired multinary color data

and the varied density data varied, onto a recording medium.

5. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 4,

wherein the multinarizing unit generates the multinary color data by setting "0" where the

black data exists and by setting an integer equal to or greater than "1" [[if]] when the data is

other than the black data.

6. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 4,

wherein the binarizing unit binarizes the varied multinary color data varied by setting to black

[[if]] when the varied multinary color data varied is "0" and by setting to any color other than

black [[if]] when the varied multinary color data is not "0".

7. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 4,

wherein the black and specific color separating unit further includes

a register that previously stores correction values for detecting any color other than

black, ~~threshold values,~~ threshold values of luminance for determining whether ~~the~~ data is

white or black, and information for process modes;

a correction value selector that selects any of the <u>threshold</u> values stored in the

register according to <u>the process modes</u> ~~a process mode and level~~;

an input selector that selects two image data ~~required for the processing~~ from the

<u>digital red, green and blue</u> image data ~~for three colors~~ based on the ~~data for the stored~~ <u>process</u>

modes; and

a color detector that detects any color other than black from the selected two image

data.

8. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein the ~~black and specific color~~ separating unit further includes

a luminance calculating unit that receives the <u>digital red, green and blue</u> image data

~~for three colors~~ and calculates a luminance value of each of the <u>digital red, green and blue</u>

image data; and

a color determining unit that reads [[a]] <u>the</u> threshold value of the luminance from the

register, and compares the read threshold value with a calculated value to determine each

pixel as black, white, or any other color, and outputs image signals.

9. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 8,

wherein the ~~black and specific color~~ separating unit further includes

a matrix generating unit that receives the ~~output~~ image signals <u>outputted from the</u>

<u>color determining unit</u>, accumulates signals for five lines to generate a 5 × 5 matrix, and

generates linear line patterns from the matrix;

a pattern matching unit that compares each of the linear line patterns with a preset

reference pattern, and determines if each of the linear line patterns matches the reference

pattern; and

a color shift correcting unit that determines, [[if]] when the pattern in the linear line

patterns matches the reference pattern, a target pixel included in the linear line pattern as

color shift, changes a color of the target pixel to another color, and outputs the ~~image~~ color

data in which color shift has been corrected as two-color data.

10. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein the ~~black and specific color~~ separating unit further includes a timing adjusting unit

that outputs luminance data at a timing at which the color shift correcting unit outputs the

two-color data.

11. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

reading analog color image data of a color image, separating ~~separates~~ the analog

color image data into red image data, green image data, and blue image data, and converting

the red image data into digital red image data, the green image data into digital green image

data, and the blue image data into digital blue image data;

determining, for each of the digital red image data, the digital green image data, and

the digital blue image data, whether there exists black data, and generating density data from

the black data when black data exists, and generating color data from data other than the

black data;

converting the color data for each of the digital red image data, the digital green

image data, and the digital blue image data into multinary color data;

varying the density data and the multinary color data ~~multinarized~~, using a cubic function convolution method;

binarizing the ~~color data~~ varied multinary color data, based on a predetermined threshold; and

printing the ~~color data~~ binarized varied multinary color data and the varied density data ~~varied~~, onto a recording medium.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the converting includes generating the multinary color data by setting "0" where the black data exists and by setting an integer equal to or greater than "1" [[if]] when the data is other than the black data.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the binarizing includes setting to black [[if]] when the varied multinary color data is "0" and [[by]] setting to any color other than black [[if]] when the varied multinary color data is not "0".